

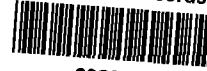


ecology and environment, inc.

111 WEST JACKSON BLVD., CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60604, TEL. 312-663-9415

International Specialists in the Environment

EPA Region 5 Records Ctr.



298965

PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

TO: Alan Altur, U.S. EPA
FROM: Karen Rydzewski, FIT *kr*
DATE: October 7, 1991
SUBJECT: Calumet Nu-Earth Dist Center Site, Chicago, Illinois
ILD980903686/F05-9104-008/FIL0366PA

The Calumet Nu-Earth Dist Center site operated from 1974 to 1978 as a public distribution point for Nu-Earth. The site is located at the intersection of 130th Street and Doty Avenue in Chicago, Cook County, Illinois, and is currently owned by the Metropolitan Sanitary District of Greater Chicago (MSDGC).

Nu-Earth was an air-dried Imhoff sludge product excavated from the Harlem Avenue Dump. It was promoted by MSDGC as an organic matter supplement and fertilizer. Nu-Earth was used extensively in public works projects, as a landfill cover, as an amendment to aid in vegetation establishment, and for individual lawn and garden projects. Testing of the Nu-Earth product by MSDGC in October 1977 indicated high cadmium levels in Nu-Earth, and the product was discontinued in 1978. All Nu-Earth was removed from the site, but soil contamination may exist because Nu-Earth had been stored in piles directly on the ground surface without a liner or other containment.

Ecology and Environment, Inc., Field Investigation Team (FIT) conducted a site inspection on August 22, 1985. No samples or field measurements were collected. FIT interviewed Gary Ziols, P.E., Senior Sanitary Engineer, MSDGC, and observed that MSDGC had installed sludge

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drying beds that covered the entire area of the site. The area was also fenced.

Two off-site reconnaissance inspections were conducted by FIT. On June 21, 1991, FIT observed that the site was fenced, bermed, and had limited visibility. On August 8, 1991, FIT conducted an additional off-site reconnaissance inspection and observed that sludge drying beds occupied the entire site area.

The general geology of the area consists of a clay layer approximately 45 feet thick, overlying limestone bedrock. The aquifer of concern (AOC) is the limestone, which is approximately 45 feet below ground surface. Because of the natural clay layer, a release to groundwater in the AOC is unlikely. The nearest residential well is over two miles from the site.

The nearest surface water body is Lake Calumet, which is approximately 1/4 mile east of the site. There is no overland migration route from the site to Lake Calumet. There is potential groundwater to surface water migration. The drainage ditch that runs along the eastern border of the site is stagnant and has not been documented to drain into Lake Calumet.

No residences, day-care facilities, or schools are located on or within 200 feet of the site; however, there are 20 workers on-site who could potentially be affected by surficial contamination. The site is fenced and bermed.

No odors or release of hazardous substances to the air have been detected at the site, and file information does not indicate a potential for an air release from the site.

7449:10

SITE NAME: Calumet Nu-Earth Dist Center PAGE 1 OF 3

U.S. EPA ID: ILD980903686 TOD: F05-9104-008 PAN: FIL0366PA

DATE: 6-21-91

TIME: 11:30 am

DIRECTION OF
PHOTOGRAPH:

West

WEATHER
CONDITIONS:

Sunny,

hot, 90°F

PHOTOGRAPHED BY:

D. Robin

SAMPLE ID
(if applicable):

N/A



DESCRIPTION: Entrance to Metropolitan Sanitary District
of Greater Chicago (MSDGC), Frontage Road (Formerly the
Calumet Nu-Earth Distribution center).

DATE: 6-21-91

TIME: 11:30 am

DIRECTION OF
PHOTOGRAPH:

West

WEATHER
CONDITIONS:

Sunny, hot,

90°F

PHOTOGRAPHED BY:

D. Robin

SAMPLE ID
(if applicable):

N/A



DESCRIPTION:

Second entrance to MSDGC, south of main entrance.

SITE NAME: Calumet Nu-Earth Dist Center

PAGE 2 OF 3

U.S. EPA ID: ILD980903686 TOD: F05-9104-008

PAN: FIL 0366 PA

DATE: 6-21-91

TIME: 11:30 am

DIRECTION OF
PHOTOGRAPH:

West

WEATHER
CONDITIONS:

Sunny, hot,

90°F

PHOTOGRAPHED BY:

D. Robin

SAMPLE ID
(if applicable):

N/A

DESCRIPTION: Activity on site near second entrance
off of Frontage Rd.

DATE: 6-21-91

TIME: 11:30 am

DIRECTION OF
PHOTOGRAPH:

Southwest

WEATHER
CONDITIONS:

sunny, hot

90°F

PHOTOGRAPHED BY:

D. Robin

SAMPLE ID
(if applicable):

N/A

DESCRIPTION:

Berm surrounding site on Frontage Rd. side.



FIELD PHOTOGRAPHY LOG SHEET

SITE NAME: Calumet Nu-Earth Dist Center

PAGE 3 OF 3

U.S. EPA ID: ILD980903686

TDD: FOS-9104-008

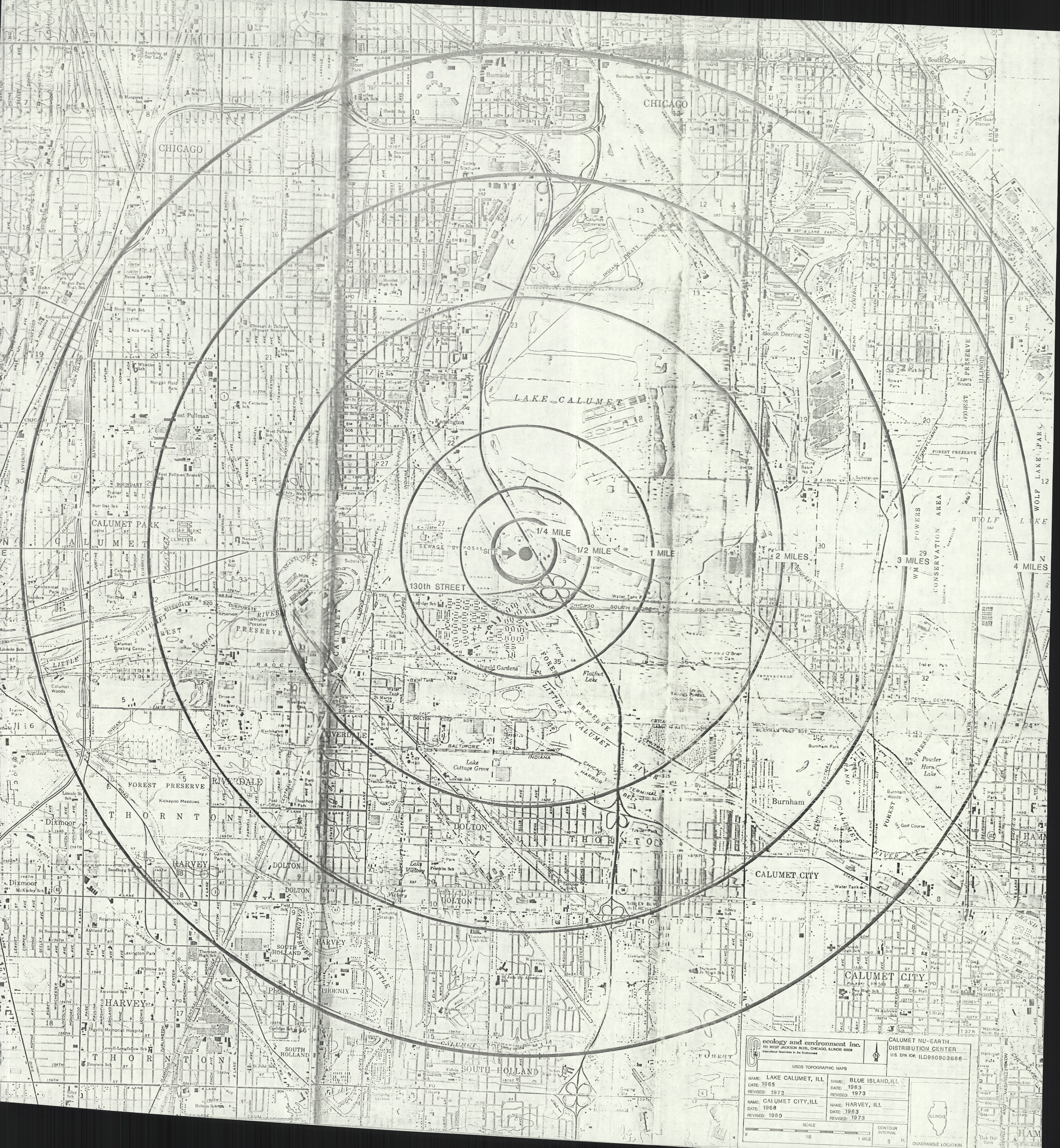
PAN: FIL0366PA



DATE: 8-8-91 TIME: 9:30am DIRECTION OF PHOTOGRAPH: North PHOTOGRAPHED BY: J. Geiger

WEATHER CONDITIONS: rainy, 70°F SAMPLE ID (if applicable): N/A

DESCRIPTION: Panoramic view of south end of site. Area consists of sludge drying beds.



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USGS TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS

NAME	DATE	REVISION
LAKE CALUMET, ILL.	1965	1973
BLUE ISLAND, ILL.	1963	1973
CALUMET CITY, ILL.	1968	1973
HARVEY, ILL.	1963	1973

SCALE
0 1/2 1 MILE

CONTOUR INTERVAL
5 FT.

CALUMET NU-EARTH
DISTRIBUTION CENTER
U.S. EPA ID# ILD980903686

QUADRANGLE LOCATION

ILLINOIS